

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

20 AUGUST 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Laos

It looks very much as though the Geneva Agreement is coming up to its first hurdle over the problem of insuring the withdrawal of foreign troops.

a. At a cabinet meeting in Vientiane last Friday, Souvanna joined Souphannouvong in contending that there are no foreign troops in areas under their control and therefore no need for ICC inspection teams there.

b. Ambassador Unger has registered his concern over this development with Souvanna. He fears, however, that the most that Souvanna will concede is one post to check on each of the three factions.

c. There had been no question about the attitude of the Pathet Lao, who want to shield the infiltration routes into South Vietnam, but Souvanna has done some backtracking. Besides indicating that he had no illusions about the presence of North Vietnamese forces, he had said as recently as last Monday that he favored having several inspection posts in Pathet Lao territory.

d. There is some embryonic evidence that Chinese Communist combat forces have moved into Phong Saly province, in northern Laos, alongside the Chinese road-building crews who have been there for several months.

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2. Berlin

a. West Berlin demonstrators, still venting their anger over the killing at the Wall on Friday, blocked a Soviet bus carrying a guard unit from the Soviet war memorial back to East Berlin for nearly 12 hours, from last night until early this morning.

b. General Watson has proposed a meeting of the four Berlin commandants to deal with the situation, offering to lift his ban on the Soviet Commandant's entry into the US sector of Berlin. The Soviet reply has not yet been received.

3. Congo

a. The fighting in northern Katanga has stopped.

b. Information on what touched off the flurry is sparse and tendentious, and a clear picture is hard to come by. Some of the clues suggest that jumpiness or overeagerness on the part of local military leaders, who are at best under only wispy control from either Leopoldville or Elisabethville, was to blame.

c. The UN command seems to think, however, that the Tshombé government was testing its reaction, and is trying to improve its ability to act if further trouble comes. A redeployment of UN forces in northern Katanga has begun. The UN in New York is expected to ask for some US airlift support for additional movements.

4. Brazil

President Goulart and the Brazilian parliament have agreed to temporize on their differences, and the edge has been taken off the conflict between them.

a. Under a formula worked out on Friday, of which we have only an outline, the Congress will grant the executive some, but not all, of the special powers it asked for.

b. Goulart and his prime minister do not, however, get immediately the plebiscite they want to determine whether the country should revert to a presidential system. The Congress agrees merely to take the matter up when it reconvenes in September.

c. At last report, the bargain had not yet been cleared with all party leaders, but the chances seemed good that it would go through, thereby at least postponing a head-on collision between Goulart and parliament.

NOTES

A. West New Guinea

Indonesia's General Nasution has made a strong plea for US help in bringing about the direct transfer of security responsibility from the Dutch to the Indonesian Army. Such a move in the early stages of a new administration would, he argues, curb the role of Indonesian civilians among whom there is likely to be a good admixture of Communists.

B. Pakistan-Afghanistan

The Shah of Iran, who wants to continue his efforts to bridge the differences between Pakistan and Afghanistan, has invited their foreign ministers to meet in Tehran for one or two days en route to the General Assembly session next month. The Pakistanis have indicated they will accept; there is no word yet from Kabul.

C. France

The Secret Army Organization is beginning to stir again in metropolitan France. The French police, on the strength of captured OAS documents, think that the terrorists are leading up to a new outburst, featuring assassination attempts, commencing next month.

D. Cambodia

The Cambodian government on Saturday released the US AID officer whom it had been holding incommunicado for nearly two weeks, and he has left the country.

E. East Germany

The VIP plane customarily used by Ulbricht returned to East Berlin from Moscow on Friday, probably signifying that he has completed the business which took him to the Soviet Union on the first of this month.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE